

Natural Heritage & Endangered Species Program
MA Division of Fisheries & Wildlife
Route 135, Westborough, MA 01581
(508) 792-7270 x 165

RARE PLANT OBSERVATION FORM

OBSERVER INFORMATION

Observer's Name, Address, and Phone:

Arthur Haines
Woodlot Alternatives, Inc. 207-729-1197
122 Main Street, Number 3
Topsham, ME 04086

Species Scientific Name:

Ranunculus pensylvanicus

NHESP Element Occurrence Number (if known):

Observation Date:

5 August 1999

Today's Date:

1 September 1999

LOCATIONAL INFORMATION

a) USGS Quad Name and Series (7.5"x7.5" or 7.5"x15"): East Lee (1:25,000)

County: Berkshire

Town: Lenox

b) Directions to location of observations (please attach USGS map):

New Lenox Road to October Mountain Road, Third cul-de-sac on right (west),
to river channel (an east-west portion of river). Across channel to north
shore.

Approximate UTM coordinates: 469130N - 0644950E

c) Habitat: (plant communities, associated vegetation, physical characteristics, geological features, surrounding land use.

Are other rare species present?)

Circumneutral Shrub swamp along Housatonic River (Dominant shrubs in immediate area include Cornus sericea, Corylus americana, and Carpinus caroliniana). Small, open rocky spot on shore with Oenothera sensibilis, Galium trifidum, Lycopus uniflorus, Pilea pumila, Clematis virginiana, Thelypteris pubescens, Sium suave, and Lysimachia nummularia.

POPULATION INFORMATION:

Population found? (Y/N):

If No, is population presumed extirpated and why?

If Yes,

Number of mature plants: 6

Number of immature plants: 0

Number of plants age unknown: 0

Population area (give unit of measurement):

2 x 1 meters

Percent of population:

in leaf:

in bud:

in flower: 4

with immature fruit:

mature fruit: 2

senescent:

Observations of floral visitors, fruit dispersers:

None observed

Vigor of individuals and population:

Apparent vigorous

Evidence of expansion or decline:

None observed

Have you observed this species at this site in previous years?

Please give details:

NO

SITE PHYSIOGRAPHY

Elevation: 290 meters

Topographic position (crest, upper slope, mid slope, lower slope, bottom?):

Adjacent to river channel

Aspect (north, south, east, west, flat?):

Slope 0-20 degrees, 20-45 degrees, 45-75 degrees, vertical?):

Light open filtered, shade?):

at least during mid-day

Moisture (inundated, wet, mesic dry, xeric?):

↓
except during high water events

Soil types:

Alluvial silt to silt-loam

Surficial rock types (with percent of ground covered):

Unknown rock type, several large cobbles visible on shore (unusual for this portion)
of the river

Bedrock/parent material:

Surficial water (distance away and source):

Less than 1 Meter, Housatonic River

MANAGEMENT/OWNERSHIP: Housatonic River Valley State Wildlife Management Area

MNHESP Site Name (if any):

Managed Area (if any):

Comments/Management recommendations:

Shrub encroachment could eliminate rare plants in near future, therefore, careful and strategic pruning could maintain open area without changing site shading, temperature, etc.

Disturbance or threats (natural or unnatural) to population:

Shrub encroachment; changes in water level at Woods Pond Dam

Land Owner's Name, Address, and Phone:

Ownership Comments:

ELEMENT OCCURRENCE (EO) SUMMARY

(Circle one choice in each category)

EO Quality

How representative is this occurrence? Consider the size and

productivity of the population and the vitality and vigor of the individuals.

A - Excellent B - Good C - Marginal D - Poor

Comments: Small population - only 6 individuals

EO Condition

Is the habitat supporting the EO pristine or degraded? Is there a potential for the habitat to recover from disturbances?

A - Excellent B - Good C - Marginal D - Poor

Comments:

EO Viability

What are the long-term prospects for continued existence of this occurrence at the indicated level of quality?

A - Excellent B - Good C - Marginal D - Poor

Comments: Small Area, a single scour event or debris pile could eliminate rare plant occurrence.

EO Defensibility

Can this occurrence be protected from extrinsic human factors?

A - Excellent B - Good C - Marginal D - Poor

Comments: Land is publicly owned.

EO RANK

A summary of all factors listed above.

A - Excellent B - Good C - Marginal D - Poor

Comments:

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS (if any)

Specimens to be deposited at the Harvard Herbarium.

CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify under pains and penalties of perjury that the information contained in this report is true and complete to the best of my knowledge.

Signature: *Arthur Haines*

Date: 1 September 1999

Please submit form, a copy of a USGS topo map showing plant location, and all supporting documentation to the State Botanist at:

Massachusetts Natural Heritage & Endangered Species Program
Division of Fisheries & Wildlife

Route 135

Westborough, MA 01581

(508) 792-7270 ext 200

Thank you for contributing to the Natural Heritage & Endangered Species Program database. Your efforts are valuable and appreciated.

EAST LEE, MASSACHUSETTS

Ranunculus pensylvanicus
(South Shore)
East Lee (1:25,000)

